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PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/633,418  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

PATENT  
NON-FINAL

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A battery comprising an electrode unit comprising a negative electrode and positive electrode spirally wound around an axis of the electrode unit as an electricity generating element housed in a battery can, and a pair of negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies for taking the electricity out of the battery, wherein one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies is secured to a lid of the battery, a current collector plate is connected to an edge of an electrode at one end of the electrode unit to electrically connect the electrode unit to said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies, [[and]] said current collector plate having one or more than one connecting piece, which is protrusively formed on a surface of the current collector plate and extends in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit on a side of said current collector plate not connected to said edge of an electrode, which one or more than one connecting piece is welded to a flange portion of a base portion of said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies, said flange portion extending from said base portion in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit on a side of the base portion facing the current collector, to form a welded surface between said one or

more than one connecting piece and said flange portion of the base portion extending in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit.

2. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 1, wherein a base portion of said ~~one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies~~ comprises a flange portion is a cylindrical flange portion and ~~said flange portion~~ is connected to an inner circumferential wall or outer circumferential wall of said one or more than one connecting piece and is welded to said one or more than one connecting piece by laser beam welding.

3. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 2, wherein an outer circumferential wall of said one or more than one connecting piece and the inner circumferential wall of the cylindrical flange portion are connected to form a connection, and a laser beam is irradiated onto said connection from outside the flange portion to weld said current collector plate to said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The battery according to claim 3, wherein said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies is the negative terminal assembly and comprises a terminal connector, at least one insulator which electrically insulates the lid of the battery from the terminal connector, and rivet means connecting the terminal connector and said at least one insulator to the lid.

6. (new) A battery comprising an electrode unit comprising a negative electrode and positive electrode spirally wound around an axis of the electrode unit as an electricity generating element housed in a battery can; a pair of negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies for taking the electricity out of the battery, wherein one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies is secured to a lid of the battery; and a current collector plate connected to an edge of an electrode at one end of the electrode unit to electrically connect the electrode unit to said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies, said current collector plate having arc-shaped protrusions which extend in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit and contact the edge of said electrode and having one or more than one connecting piece, which is protrusively formed

on a surface of the current collector plate and extends in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit on a side of said current collector plate not connected to said edge of an electrode, which one or more than one connecting piece is welded to a flange portion of a base portion of said one of said negative and positive electrode terminal assemblies, said flange portion extending from said base portion in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit on a side of the base portion facing the current collector, to form a welded surface between said one or more than one connecting piece and said flange portion of the base portion extending in the direction of the axis of the electrode unit.